

March 20, 1968

Mr. William C. Foster
Director
United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
Department of State Building
Washington, D. C. 20451

Dear Mr. Foster:

I am very eager to write an article, or a series of them, on scientific research for peace. I am writing you now to ask you for help in locating and obtaining source material on the subject.

If I recall correctly, your agency was originally founded with the expectation that it might plan research programs in this area, and I would be grateful to you for documentation on this mandate and on the policies that have been adopted by the agency for its implementation. An outline of the current research programs supported by or for the agency would be very useful, and some clarification of the way in which the conclusions of such research can reach the public, as well.

A perhaps quite similar question would be an indication of specific suggested goals of the kind of scientific or technological innovations that could contribute most directly to world stability.

While what I have in mind most immediately is work in the natural sciences, I realize that social scientific investigation must play the largest part in current activities, and I would be grateful for any way to obtain a sound perspective on what is going on here. I am really at the moment more interested in discussing the methodology than any political conclusions, and I hope you will then not misunderstand if I suggest a specific example. But may I ask, for example, for the source you might point me towards as a thoughtful discussion of the theory of mutual deterrents, and how it might be used to answer the question whether there should be a previous advertisement of committed thresholds for reaction or not.

I realize that it may be unreasonable of me to fire such a barrage of questions, and that you may not be able to react to all of them, but I would appreciate any comment that you can take the trouble to make.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

see Mr. Foster's inquiries file

Wm. C. FOSTER